

# Editorially

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# Mt. Sterling Advocate.

A WEEKLY JOURNAL, IDENTICAL IN INTEREST WITH ITS OWN PEOPLE.

The People's Organ.

Largest circulation of any journal in the Tenth Congressional District.

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## FULL DETAILS OF THE COULTER-MARTIN AFFAIR

### Gov. Beckham Gives to the Public Inspector Hines' Report

As to the Use of State's Money to Further Interests of a Private Corporation.

Reveals Methods of a State Official Exposed by the Report—The Governor Calls on Attorney General to Act to Recover Money Due State.

The full details of the scandal in official circles which has been hinted at, came to light on December 14th when Gov. Beckham addressed a letter to Attorney General Pratt calling his attention to a report made to him, the executive, by State Inspector Hines relative to what the Inspector terms "gross irregularities" in the office of State Auditor Gus G. Coulter. The executive makes this report a part of his letter to the Attorney General and calls the attention of that official to the fact that some steps must be taken immediately to protect the State's interests and recover into the Treasury the money which the negligence, to say the least, of others, has caused to be held out of it. The Governor asks the Attorney General for a conference on the matter, and it is probable they will get together and direct the institution of proceedings in the State Fiscal Court against the principals and bondsmen to recover the money of the State which for months has gone to benefit a private corporation. Interest will also be sought. The Governor's letter follows:

#### THE GOVERNOR'S LETTER.

December 14, 1903.

Hon. C. J. Pratt, Attorney General, City:

My Dear Sir: My attention was recently called to the fact that there was a large discrepancy in the matter of the accounts of the Frankfort Chair Company with the State, and that while the books of the Prison Commissioners show that checks had been received by it each month from this company according to contract and these checks were regularly turned over to the Auditor, the books of the State Treasurer show that no money has been paid into the Treasury on this account since the payment of the last January account excepting \$19,018.27 paid on December 10 and December 11 after this investigation was made. Upon learning of this trouble I directed the State Inspector and Examiner, Judge H. B. Hines, to make an investigation of it immediately in connection with his regular examination of the books in the Auditor's and Treasurer's offices. He has done so and made his report to me, a copy of which I send you with this letter.

that you may see the result so far of this investigation. The matter is of such importance and the condition of affairs shown by his report is such that I deem it advisable to call your attention to it as the Attorney General of the State. The report shows that these checks were handed each month to the Auditor and that so far he had failed to turn them over to the

that steps should be immediately taken to protect the interest of the State and to see that all money due from this company should be properly secured. I shall cheerfully cooperate with you in every way possible to save the State any loss in this matter and shall be glad to confer with you at once as to what steps should be taken.

Very respectfully,  
J. C. W. BECKHAM,  
Governor.

some very gross irregularities in the Auditor's office I deem it proper to submit to you the following partial report, hoping to complete same at an early date:

I find from examining the books of the Board of Prison Commissioners in connection with the Treasurer's office that the Frankfort Chair Company issued checks payable to the State Treasurer, delivering same to the Board of Prison Commissioners for the hire of convict labor as per contract on the following dates and for the sums stated, to wit:

June 10, 1903, labor account for February, 1903	\$ 5,845 15
July 10, 1903, labor account for March, 1903	\$ 6,395 44
August 10, 1903, labor account for April, 1903	\$ 6,567 61
September 10, 1903, labor account for May, 1903	\$ 6,645 82
October 10, 1903, labor account for June, 1903	\$ 6,732 70
November 10, 1903, labor account for July, 1903	\$ 6,839 31
July 3, 1903, check applied on \$18,000 note account	\$ 7,355 17
November 6, 1903, check applied on \$18,000 note account	\$ 7,499 37
Total	\$53,880 57

All of the above dates and amounts are correct as shown by the Board of Prison Commissioners' books and certified to by clerk of said board on accounts on file in the Auditor's office.

In pursuance of custom the above referred to checks were upon the dates named transferred to the Auditor of Public Accounts, Mr. Gus G. Coulter, by the clerk of the Prison Board.

From an examination of the Treasurer's office the last payment made by the Frankfort Chair Company for labor was for the month of January, 1903.

I find by further examination that the above referred to checks are still in possession of the Auditor of Public Accounts, never having been transferred to the State Treasurer as directed by law or any notice given the State Treasurer or to the Board of Prison Commissioners that said checks or any of them were being held up by said Auditor for any reason whatever.

The total amount as you will see owing the State of Kentucky by the Frankfort Chair Company on this date and being held up by the Auditor amounts to \$53,880.57 for the hire of labor for the months of February, March, April, May, June and July, 1903, and for two notes which checks were given to the Auditor on July and November, 1903.

I have this day filed with the State Treasurer and Board of Prison Commissioners a copy of the above report. Very respectfully submitted,

(Signed) H. B. HINES,  
State Inspector and Examiner.

#### HINES' REPORT.

State of Kentucky.  
Office of State Inspector and Examiner,  
Frankfort, Ky., Dec. 10, 1903.

To His Excellency, J. C. W. Beckham, Governor of the Commonwealth of Kentucky:

Honorable Sir—As directed by you on yesterday I began my annual inspection of the Auditor's and Treasurer's offices and finding

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# Holiday Shopping

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CHRISTMAS IS ONLY A FEW WEEKS AWAY.

Experienced shoppers find it more convenient to do their buying early in order to make their selection prior to the great crowds incident to holiday buying, when the great rush is on. Our stocks are thoroughly complete now, but then first choice is the best.

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Treasurer, nor had he notified the Prison Board or other official at any time that the checks were not good if such was the case. He now informs the State Inspector that the Frankfort Chair Company was unable to pay these checks, and that he was so told by that company when he received them. The unpaid checks now held by him amount to nearly \$35,000, and as they are long past due I believe

## BARGAINS FOR CASH BUYERS!

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Kid Body Dolls	25c, 50c
Negro Dolls	10c
China Dolls	5c, 10c and 15c
Large Dress Dolls	75c and \$1
Photo Albums	25c, 50c, 75c, \$1
Toilet Cases	25c, 50c and 75c
Manicure Sets	39c, 48c, \$1
Ladies' Work Sets	24c, 38c, 50c
Shaving Sets	49c, 74c, 98c
Cuff and Collar Boxes	25c, 39c
Nicktie Boxes	39c, 48c, 74c
Glove and Handkerchief Box	25c, 50c
Glove Boxes	39c, 65c
Smokers' Sets	48c, 75c
Chocolate Candy	10c lb
Cocoanut Candy	10c lb
Caramel Candy	10c lb
Cream Bonbon Candy	10c lb
Cocoanut Bonbon Candy	10c lb
Nice Peccale Remnants	8 1-3c yd

Leather Soles	10c, 15c, 25c pr
Cork Insoles	5c pr
Coal Buckets	25c, 30c, 35c
Fire Shovels	4c, 8c, 12c
Granite Coffee Pots	20c, 25c, 30c
Tin Coffee Pots	5c, 10c, 15c
Coffee Mills (holds 1 lb. coffee)	38c
Smoothing Irons, 5, 6, 7	5c lb
Mrs. Potts' Sm'ting Irons 75c set	
Steel Traps	8c, 10c, 15c
Royal Baking Powder	10c, 25c
Silver Star Baking Powder	15c lb
Sun Beam Baking Powder	10c
Dried Apples	7 1-2c lb
Evaporated Peaches	8 1-3c, 10c
Flake Hominy	4c lb
Cracked Hominy	3c lb
Raisins	10c, 12 1-2c lb
Dried Beans	5c lb
Fresh Roast Coffee	10c, 12 1-2 lb

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C. T. FLANDERS, JUDY, KY.

#### Short Meter Sermons.

Grumbling is the child of greed. Sincerity is never self-conscious. Sin is never healed by humoring it.

It takes all of life to know all of love.

Faith is the greatest force in the world.

You can not feed the soul on frozen truths.

Style is no substitute for sterling strength.

The life that does no good is guilty of much harm.

Character may be sold, but it cannot be bought.

Some people fear to try lest they should succeed.

The hope of this world is in the hard things we have to do.

As soon as a man is good enough he is no longer any good.

Character is what we are when we haven't time to calculate.

People who borrow trouble are always ready to lend advice.

The devil needs to do nothing for the man who has nothing to do.

No man moves this world until he is profoundly moved himself.

It takes more than a bellows in the pulpit to start a fire in the church.

They who laugh at another's distress have no ability to share another's joy.

The soundness of a man's faith does not depend on the amount of noise he makes.

If you do not give your riches wings for good works they will take to themselves wings for good and all.

#### In Ohio.

Thomas Priton, a farmer living north of Columbus, Ohio, reported to the police that his sister, aged eighty, had eloped with a colored man who had been making love to her, and induced her to put a mortgage on her property and turn the money over to him.

#### Gold in Mason County.

The Abagail correspondent to the Mt. Olive Tribune Democrat says: "It's reported on good authority that Chas. Hill, of Salemridge, Mason county, has discovered a large and rich vein of gold ore in the bed of a creek called Pummel, which runs through his place. J. T. Kennedy, of the Frisbie Oil Co., located the vein, using a goldometer. Mr. Kennedy has quite a reputation for finding water, coal and hidden treasures. If this report is true, it will go a long way toward confirming a legend which has often been told by the older class of people. It is as follows: Many years ago an old Indian woman who was traveling through this county with a gang of Gypsies told the people that her tribe at one time worked a gold mine on Pummel, and she said that there was enough gold in that creek to shoe all the horses in Mason county."

#### Not Harmonious.

Ex Gov. W. O. Bradley, of Kentucky, arrived in Washington Wednesday and while at the Raleigh hotel he came across Godfrey Hunter, also of Kentucky, but neither spoke as they passed by. They passed each other without speaking or making any sign of recognition. Both Hunter and Bradley held receptions in the lobby, but neither took any notice of the other. Much comment was made upon this fact as indicating that Kentucky Republicans were not at all harmonious with each other.

#### White in Washington.

Jno. D. White, of Kentucky, and who with D. G. Edwards was a candidate against W. Godfrey Hunter for Congressman from the Eleventh Kentucky district, was in Washington Wednesday and announced that he would contest Hunter's claim to a seat in Congress.

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